

things and invested the taxpayers' money and also provided opportunity, this country has progressed. We led the way.

We, as we moved along, decided there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. The captains of industry in the turn of the century were producing tainted meat with rat poison. Upton Sinclair wrote his book about how they killed rats by lacing the bread with arsenic. He said they would shove the bread and rats down the chute and it would get mixed in and they would produce a mystery meat that would end up on the shelf. We decided we did not want to eat tainted meat.

We also decided we did not want to pollute our air. In the last 20 years, we are using twice as much energy and we have cleaner air. Is it because the captains of industry said we are going to spend money to clean up emissions? No, it is because people here in the Senate and across the way in the House said there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. We said we were going to require less pollution. Yes, it will cost a little more. But we have cleaner air now than we had 20 years ago, and we have cleaner water than we had 20 years ago.

Is it a nuisance to comply with all of that? I suppose so. Is it good for our kids to leave this country in better shape? You bet it is. The Government provided leadership and did the right thing. We have to provide the leadership in fiscal policy as well. Do we not have to balance the Federal budget? You bet. There is no question about that. There ought not to be one scintilla of debate on the floor of the Senate on the question of whether we should put our fiscal house in order. The question is not whether we should, the question is how. There is a right and a wrong way to do that as well.

The Federal budget represents our priorities. One hundred years from now they can look at the budget and figure out what the people in this country thought was important to them. They can determine that just by looking at what they decided to spend money on. I know it is easy to criticize. I do not mean to be critical. As has been said, "Any jackass can kick a barn door down, but it takes a carpenter to build one." Yet, I must be critical of the priorities in the budget. I think they are wrong.

I want to balance the budget. I have supported initiatives to do so. But I do not think we ought to make it harder for kids to go to college. That is what this budget does. I do not think we should do it by deciding that health care is going to be more expensive for the poor and elderly. We do not advance the economic interests of this country when we decide a poor child at school should not be entitled to a hot lunch, but the richest Americans are entitled to a tax cut. That does not make sense for this country.

This is a debate about priorities. I have been watching people break their

arms patting themselves on the back today for a balanced budget. I only observe that if you take this document that is on every single desk in the Senate and turn to page three, look at the heading called deficits, and look at the year 2002, you will see that in the year 2002, on this majority party budget deficit document, it says the budget is not in balance. It is, in fact, a \$108 billion deficit.

I have a standing offer of \$1,000 of Senator ROCKEFELLER's money—because he has a little more than the rest of us, so he would provide \$1,000 of his money to anyone—to any Member of the Senate or any journalist who would demonstrate to us that this budget is in balance. I made that offer 24 hours ago, and nobody has taken the \$1,000 dollars yet, and nobody will, largely because this budget is not in balance. Everybody in this Chamber knows it. Yet, they are spending most of their time complimenting themselves on doing something they have not done. That might be fun for them and might eat up some of their time, and it might even convince some people it is in balance. But those who have taken simple arithmetic and who can read page numbers can simply go to page 3 and understand that it is not in balance.

Again, I say, about priorities, that the priorities here are not the right priorities. We can, should, and will debate the priorities. And, in my judgment, it is investing in our children's education. It is in balancing the budget, but doing so in a way that spends money that is productive, that yields investments.

If I have 1 or 2 minutes left, I want to tell a story I have told before. It represents what I think is the future of this country. The oldest Member of Congress, when I came here, was Claude Pepper. I went to his office to meet him. Behind his desk were two pictures on the wall. One was of Orville and Wilbur Wright taking their first flight. You know, it was autographed. That is how old Claude was. It said, "To Congressman Pepper with deep admiration." He came to Congress in the 1930's and was still here in the 1980's. Beneath the autographed picture of Orville and Wilbur Wright making their first flight was a picture of Neil Armstrong standing on the Moon.

What was it in that relatively short period of decades that produced people that went from the ground to the air to the Moon? Education and genius. It was massive amounts of education in our country, allowing people to become the best they can be—engineers, scientists, and more. It was not just going to the Moon; it was progressing in so many other areas. Why? Because we made the right investments. We understood the right priorities.

The right priorities, in my judgment, are this country's children. This budget short-changes America's children. Someone once said that 100 years from now your income will not matter, or how big your house was, but the world

might be a different place because you were important in the life of a child.

The question for us about priorities is: Will we pass a budget that is important in the lives of America's children? If we will, it will not be this one because its priorities are wrong. We can do much better, and will, if we reject this budget, reject the tax cuts for the rich, reject more money for defense, and invest more in America's kids, and make sure we take care of the things that are important in this country.

I yield back the entire balance of my time.

Mr. GRAMM addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. GRAMM. Madam President, I rise today in support of the budget agreement. I want to congratulate Senator DOMENICI. I want to congratulate Congressman KASICH. It is very seldom in American politics that you get an opportunity to vote for a big bill—a budget in this case—that takes a step toward fundamentally changing the way our Government does its business.

I am not saying that this is the be-all and end-all of budgeting. I am not saying that this budget in and of itself is going to fundamentally change the future of America. But I am saying that it is an important step in the right direction. It is clearly the most dramatic and important budget that we have adopted in the U.S. Congress since 1981.

I believe that the American people will be beneficiaries of this budget. And it is not perfect, from my point of view. I think we could have cut spending more. I think we could have let working people keep more of what they earned. I think we could have done more to change fundamentally American Government. The bottom-line truth is that this is a dramatic change in policy, and I think everybody who has had anything to do with this budget can be proud of what they have done.

Let me set in perspective what we are doing here today. We are writing, over a 7-year period, a binding budget that, if enforced over that 7-year period, will balance the Federal budget. That is something that we have not done since 1969.

The important thing to note about this budget is that we are not promising to do things in the future that will balance the budget. What we are doing in this budget, and in the follow-on legislation that we will adopt this year, is we are making changes now that will, over the next 7 years, if the economy stays roughly as we now anticipate it will stay, in a modest recovery mode, balance the Federal budget and will, for the first time in over a quarter-century, mean that the Federal Government is living within its means. That is a very important change in public policy. What did it take to achieve this change?

Some of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are going to talk about deep cuts, about denying benefits, but let me try to set that in perspective.